



Police Civilian Advisory Board Study Committee

DRAFT MINUTES

Date: June 3, 2021

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Conducted by Remote Participation

Bishop	p	Gitelson	p	Newton	p	Mohtadi	p
Brownstein	p	Heim	p	Radochia	p	Brown	p
Elkin	p	Harvey		Rogers	p		
Fallon	p	Maher		Rowe			
Flaherty		Morales	p	Ryan-Vollmar	p		

Captain Brendan Kiernan attended in place of Chief Flaherty

Agenda

Meeting Called to order at 7:07 pm

1. Approve minutes from prior meetings - 5 minutes
March minutes approved unanimously
2. Updates from representatives of other committees - questions, input, etc. - 20 minutes
 - a. Board of Youth Services - Karen Bishop
 - Is APD using a true Jail Diversion Program?
 - Clinician works for outside program "Advocates"
 - Training for dispatchers to send a clinician?
 - Dispatchers do go through mental health training
 - Details on SRO
 - SRO is assigned to the high school, but does go to other schools to check in. He does carry a radio and would respond to an issue
 - b. Council on Aging - Anne Brown
 - Looking forward to listening sessions
 - What types of training in terms of older population, especially dementia and alzheimers?

APD did in-service training recently (within the last couple years) on dealing with elderly populations.

- c. Michael Brownstein - Envision Arlington Standing Committee
Interested in making sure voices are heard in the process.
 - d. Kerry Fallon - Disability Commission
The Disability Commission has not discussed this much yet.
What happens when the jail diversion officer is not working?
Officers can contact *Advocates* directly
 - e. Carlos Morales - Envision Arlington DTG
On the DTG June 14 agenda to discuss and will bring specifics to next meeting
 - f. Kathleen Rogers - AHRC
AHRC reviewed questions that Kathy and Bob presented to us.
Concern at the commission about an incident in Somerville involving a child.
Pedrini matter continues to cast a shadow. Interest in how review a board might work, and what it might need to work.
 - g. Susan Ryan-Vollmar - Rainbow Commission
Tremendous interest in soliciting input from the community
3. Summary of AHRC complaint process - Kathy Rogers - 15 minutes
Reviewed memo from Kathy Rogers.
Who is the "Executive Director" referenced in the Bylaw?
Perhaps Jillian Harvey, but this is being discussed as part of updates at the AHRC.
- Kathy has recollection of one incident in which a member of the public came forward with a complaint. Multiple commissioners were involved and Kathy recalls very good responsiveness from Chief Flaherty.
- Section 3.2 of the AHRC rules mention Appendix A, but it's not included.
Appendix A is in development
Incidents, more than complaints.
Each situation is different, so has been challenging to come up with a work flow.
2-5 incidents per month.
Complaints/Incidents come in webform and email.
When there is a police report with an incident of racial bias that report is passed to the AHRC and they follow up.
There was discussion about the relationship between AHRC and MCAD.
The AHRC has 3 choices - mediation, reprimand, private reprimand - would any of these be satisfying in the case of serious police misconduct?
- The AHRC does really good work, but it's important for this committee to recognize that work is different from the hypothetical work of a civilian review board.

Discussion about how AHRC shows the limitations of an all volunteer investigative body.

4. Monitoring systems of Police Accountability - Doug & Clarissa -15 minutes
Doug and Clarissa will have more details at a future meeting. One thing to share at this point is the wide range of possibility
5. Investigative systems of Civilian Review - Sanjay - 15 minutes
Sanjay wants to cover “how they work” but also the kinds of resources required and the number of complaints/issues that they deal with.
Suggestion that Sanjay should also look into how things overlap with new state bodies.

Do the complaints reflect reality? i.e. “if we build it will they come?”

6. Review Processes - Carlos - 15 minutes
Carlos discussed his attached slides.
Discussion of data shared by Chief Flaherty on calls/reports/complaints.

The two tricky parts are “how does a review board get information” and “how do review board recommendations become reality”

What information do we have about communities of our size and scope?
It’s very challenging because most data out there is from much larger communities. We can look to Cambridge to some extent.

Discussion about how to figure out whether and where there are missing complaints and issues. How do we build ongoing systems to continue looking at this.

When does the jurisdiction come in? Is the body we’re talking about going to be “active in the moment” vs. “review after the fact”

7. Alternative methods of complaint processes - Laura & Jill - 15 minutes
Deferred to a future meeting.
8. Scheduling a meeting for public comment - 10 min
Part of it will be about spreading the word.
We should consider soliciting anonymous feedback - currently there is no contact information for committee members on the websites. We should add Chair/Clerk contact information to the website.
Multiple Listening sessions over the course of the summer.
How do we make those listening sessions welcoming. Jillian has experience from the various community conversations and may be able to help us.

9. Update on open meeting changes - Doug - 10 min
Governor's executive order expires on June 15th unless legislation is passed. Currently in Senate Ways and Means Committee and would extend to September 1st.
10. Set future meeting schedule
Next meeting following our schedule so far would be right before July 4 weekend, so we probably need to move it. Sanjay to poll for a different date and have it posted.
11. Adjourn
Unanimous vote to adjourn.

Documents regarding agenda items will be made available via Novus Agenda and the Town's Website.

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-meeting-law-order-march-12-2020/download>